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Mark B. Quatt

Mark B. Quatt Registration No.30,484

DECEMBER 2, 2002
Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Evangelisti et al.
Serial No.: 09/830,245
Filing Date: July 9, 2001
Title: Vacuum Packaging Machine

Docket No: 42837-01
Group Art Unit: 3728
Examiner: Stashick, Anthony D.

Response under 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This response is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2002.
A Petition for a one (1) month extension of time is enclosed.

In the Specification

Please add the following paragraph to page 1 of the specification, after the title and before the first line of text:

B1
-- The present application is a 35 USC §371 application of PCT/EP99/08131 filed October 27, 1999, which claims the benefit of priority European Patent Application Serial No. 93308823.8 filed October 28, 1998 --.

Please amend the existing text of the specification as follows:

1. Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B2
-- The vacuum chambers 4a, 4b, 4c, and 4d each have a respective internal chamber conveyor 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d to convey product packages 2 therethrough, and a respective sealing bar 12 arranged along one side of each chamber extending along the corresponding chamber conveyor 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d. Provision of a sealing bar 12 on the side of each chamber conveyor 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d facilitates automatic